

Re. : Response to Office Action Mailed December 28, 2004
Appl. No. : 10/722,664
Filed : November 25, 2003

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A basketball goal assembly comprising:

a backboard including a front portion forming at least a portion of a rebound surface, surface, a generally opposing rear portion surface, a first side and a second side and a perimeter including a first portion disposed on a first side of the backboard and a second portion disposed on an opposing second side of the backboard;

a first weight; ~~positioned proximate the first side of the backboard;~~

a first receiving portion in the first side of the backboard, the first receiving portion being sized and configured to receive at least a portion of the first weight;

a second weight; ~~positioned proximate the second side of the backboard; and~~

a second receiving portion in the second side of the backboard, the second receiving portion being sized and configured to receive at least a portion of the second weight, the first receiving portion being spaced apart from the second receiving portion; and

a rim positioned proximate the front portion surface of the backboard;

wherein the first weight and the second weight are sized and configured to enhance the rebounding characteristics of the backboard.

2. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the first receiving portion is at least partially disposed within ~~further comprising~~ a first internal

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portion ~~of disposed within~~ the backboard and wherein the second receiving portions is at least partially disposed within a second internal portion ~~of disposed within~~ the backboard, ~~the first weight being at least partially disposed within the first internal portion of the backboard and the second weight being at least partially disposed within the second internal portion of the backboard.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the first receiving portion includes further comprising a first opening in the backboard and wherein the second receiving portion includes a second opening in the backboard, the first weight being at least partially disposed within the first opening and the second weight being at least partially disposed within the second opening.

4. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the first weight generally comprises a first sleeve that is attached to a first edge of the backboard and the second weight generally comprises a second sleeve that is attached to a second edge of the backboard.

5. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 4, further comprising a first groove and a second groove disposed proximate the first side of the backboard and a first groove and a second groove disposed proximate the second side of the backboard, a first portion of the first weight being at least partially disposed within the first groove disposed proximate the first side of the backboard and a second portion of the first weight being at least partially disposed within the second groove disposed proximate the first side of the backboard, a first portion of the

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second weight being at least partially disposed within the first groove disposed proximate the second side of the backboard and a second portion of the second weight being at least partially disposed within the second groove disposed proximate the second side of the backboard.

6. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the backboard is constructed from blow-molded plastic.

7. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the first weight and the second weight are constructed from generally rigid materials that are sized and configured to increase the rigidity of the backboard.

8. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, further comprising a reinforcement structure attached to the backboard, at least a portion of the reinforcement structure generally extending from the first side to the second side of the backboard.

9. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, further comprising a reinforcement structure generally disposed about the periphery of the backboard.

10. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, further comprising a reinforcement structure attached to the backboard, the first weight forming at least a first portion of a reinforcement structure and the second weight forming at least a second portion of the reinforcement structure.

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11. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 10, wherein the reinforcement structure includes an elongated member that generally extends from the first side to the second side of the backboard.

12. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 10, wherein the reinforcement structure is generally disposed about the periphery of the backboard.

13. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the first weight is removably connected to the first side of the backboard and the second weight is removably connected to the second side of the backboard.

14. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard comprising:
a support frame including a first side and a second side;
a first attachment portion in the first side of the support frame;
a second attachment portion in the second side of the support frame;
a rebound member attached to the support frame;
a first weight that is sized and configured to be attached to the first attachment portion in the first side of the support frame, the first weight being sized and configured
to enhance the rebounding characteristics of the basketball backboard; and
a second weight that is sized and configured to be attached to the second attachment portion in the second side of the support frame, the second weight being sized and configured to enhance the rebounding characteristics of the basketball backboard.

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15. (Currently Amended) The basketball backboard as in Claim 14, wherein the first attachment portion is at least partially disposed within ~~further comprising~~ a first internal portion ~~of disposed within~~ the support frame and wherein the second attachment portion is at least partially disposed within a second internal portion ~~of disposed within~~ the support frame, ~~the first weight being at least partially disposed within the first internal portion of the support frame and the second weight being at least partially disposed within the second internal portion of the support frame.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The basketball backboard as in Claim 14, wherein the first attachment portion includes ~~further comprising~~ a first opening in the support frame and wherein the second attachment portion includes a second opening in the support frame, ~~the first weight being at least partially disposed within the first opening and the second weight being at least partially disposed within the second opening.~~

17. (Original) The basketball backboard as in Claim 14, wherein the first weight generally comprises a first sleeve that is attached to a first edge of the support frame and the second weight generally comprises a second sleeve that is attached to a second edge of the support frame.

18. (Original) The basketball backboard as in Claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the support frame is constructed from blow-molded plastic.

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19. (Original) The basketball backboard as in Claim 14, further comprising a reinforcement structure attached to the support frame, at least a portion of the reinforcement structure generally extending from the first side to the second side of the support frame.

20. (Original) The basketball backboard as in Claim 14, further comprising a reinforcement structure generally disposed about the periphery of the support frame.

21. (Original) The basketball backboard as in Claim 14, further comprising a reinforcement structure attached to the support frame, the first weight forming at least a first portion of a reinforcement structure and the second weight forming at least a second portion of the reinforcement structure.

22. (Original) The basketball backboard as in Claim 21, wherein the reinforcement structure includes an elongated member that generally extends from the first side to the second side of the support frame.

23. (Original) The basketball backboard as in Claim 21, wherein the reinforcement structure is generally disposed about the periphery of the support frame.

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24. (Currently Amended) A basketball goal assembly comprising:

a backboard including a front portion and a rear portion; ~~surface~~;

a first weight that is separate and discrete from the backboard, the first weight being sized and configured to be attached to a first portion of the backboard, eapable of being attached to the perimeter backboard, the first weight being sized and configured to enhance the rebounding performance of the backboard; and

a second weight that is separate and discrete from the backboard, the second weight being sized and configured to be attached to a second portion of the backboard, the first portion of the backboard being spaced apart from the second portion of the backboard, eapable of being attached to the perimeter backboard, the second weight being sized and configured to enhance the rebounding performance of the backboard.

25. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 24, further comprising a first ~~internal portion disposed within~~ interior portion of the backboard and a second ~~internal portion disposed within~~ interior portion of the backboard, the first weight being at least partially disposed within the first interior portion of the backboard and the second weight being at least partially disposed within the second interior portion of the backboard.

26. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 24, further comprising a first opening in the backboard and a second opening in the backboard, the first weight being at least partially disposed within the first opening and the second weight being at least partially disposed within the second opening.

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27. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 24, wherein the first weight generally comprises a first sleeve that is attached to a first edge of the backboard and the second weight generally comprises a second sleeve that is attached to a second edge of the backboard.

28. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 27, further comprising a first groove and a second groove disposed proximate a first side of the backboard and a first groove and a second groove disposed proximate a second side of the backboard, a first portion of the first weight being at least partially disposed within the first groove disposed proximate the first side of the backboard and a second portion of the first weight being at least partially disposed within the second groove disposed proximate the first side of the backboard, a first portion of the second weight being at least partially disposed within the first groove disposed proximate the second side of the backboard and a second portion of the second weight being at least partially disposed within the second groove disposed proximate the second side of the backboard.

29. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the backboard is constructed from blow-molded plastic.

30. (Original) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 24, wherein the first weight and the second weight are constructed from generally rigid materials that are sized and configured to increase the rigidity of the backboard.

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Please insert the following new claims:

31. (New) A basketball goal assembly including perimeter-weighting that is sized and configured to enhance rebounding characteristics, the basketball goal assembly comprising:

a backboard that is sized and configured to be attached to a support structure;

a first weight that is separate and discrete from the backboard, the first weight being sized and configured to be selectively connected to a first portion of the backboard;
and

a second weight that is separate and discrete from the backboard, the second weight being sized and configured to be selectively connected to a second portion of the backboard;

wherein the first weight is spaced apart from the second weight on opposing portions of the backboard to facilitate a perimeter-weighted basketball goal assembly.

32. (New) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 31, wherein the first weight is at least partially disposed within an interior portion of the backboard and wherein the second weight is at least partially disposed within an interior portion of the backboard.

33. (New) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 31, further comprising a first attachment portion that is sized and configured to attach the first weight to the backboard and a second attachment portion that is sized and configured to attach the second weight to the backboard.

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34. (New) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 31, wherein the first weight and the second weight are selectively attached to the backboard.

35. (New) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 31, wherein the first weight and the second weight are part of the same structure.

36. (New) The basketball goal assembly as in Claim 31, wherein the first weight is sized and configured to be selectively positioned independent of the second weight; and wherein the second weight is sized and configured to be selectively positioned independent of the first weight.